

BRYAN SAYS HE'LL RUN AGAIN

WON'T BE HEADOFF BY PARTY LEADERS OR NEWSPAPERS

If the Great Voice of the Voters Cries Out for Him—Willing to Run Against Any Republican, No Matter What the Outlook for Victory May Be—His Statement.

LINCOLN, Neb., Nov. 14.—The first positive declaration by Mr. Bryan on the subject of his attitude toward the Democratic Presidential nomination of 1908 appears in this week's *Commoner*, to be issued tomorrow. In a prominent editorial place, under the heading "Mr. Bryan's Position," Mr. Bryan makes the subjoined statement. It is a guarded announcement that he is a candidate, and while he makes it plain that he would not accept the nomination except on a platform to his liking, he is not to be considered as personally seeking the nomination, but is willing to take it if the rank and file of the party ask him and desire him to make the race. The statement follows:

A year ago last summer while in Europe Mr. Bryan in an interview stated that it was too early to discuss the question of a personal standpoint, although during that summer the Democratic conventions in some of the States of the Union had passed resolutions complimentary to him and mentioned his name in connection with the Democratic nomination for President. He has from time to time refused to discuss the availability either of himself or other candidates, believing that the party should have the light possible before attempting a selection. A Presidential candidate should fit the platform adopted by his party, and platforms are made to fit the conditions existing when the platform is made. It is not for a man to go far ahead or speak with certainty as to the issues or as to the relative importance of issues in the campaign. Sometimes a day will change the situation, and a few months may bring forward a new issue which will have an important bearing upon the availability of a candidate. For this reason Mr. Bryan has refused to make any announcement as to his own position, although he has from time to time discussed the situation. Now that the election of 1907 is past and plans are being made for next year's campaign he feels that a statement is due to the public. Those who prefer another candidate are free to know his position and those who are in favor of him have a right to demand an answer to the question as often put—Will you accept a nomination? His refusal to answer the question has led to the circulation of rumors that he had been in correspondence with a German agent with the view of selling him naval secrets, for which he (Ulmo) demanded \$100,000. The agent declared that this price was excessive and consequently no documents were delivered to him.

Later Ulmo, acting anonymously, offered to return the stolen documents to the French Government for \$50,000, and it was while he was attempting to negotiate to this end that he was arrested. An act of carelessness gave the police a clue to Ulmo's dealings with the foreign agent. They searched some 80,000 despatches at Toulon, and finally found one in which Ulmo had telegraphed to Brussels saying he would arrive there to meet the agent in the morning. Ulmo had obliterated the words "in the morning" and the telegraph clerk, noticing this, asked him, as it is customary in France, to write "Words obliterated, nothing," on the bottom of the telegraph form. Ulmo wrote the words mechanically and added his signature, which placed the authorities on his track.

Mr. Bryan will not ask for or seek a nomination, and he will not, under any circumstances, question his availability. He has been so amply recompensed by his party for what he has done and for what he has endeavored to do that he cannot claim a nomination as a reward, neither should his nomination be considered, for he has had honors enough from his party to satisfy any reasonable ambition. The only question that ought to weigh with the party is whether the party can be strengthened and aided more by his nomination than by the nomination of some one else. If he can serve the party by being its candidate, he will accept the nomination and make the best fight he can. If, however, he is not elected, he will not be disappointed or disgruntled. His availability is a question to be decided not by him, but by a few leaders, not even by the leading newspapers that call themselves Democratic, but by the voters of the party, and to them he trusts the decision of the question. They are the supreme court in all matters concerning candidates, as they are in all matters concerning the platform.

He assumes that they will not select him unless they desire to make an aggressive fight for the application of Democratic principles to present conditions, and he also takes it for granted that the organization of the party will be in harmony with the platform and will be composed of men whose political records will invite confidence and give assurance to the voters, if won, will not be a barren victory.

It has been said that Mr. Bryan was writing to see who the Republican nominee would be. This is untrue. He has never felt that his position should be dependent upon the action taken by the Republican party. The Republicans have no platform, and a reformer, a standpatter or one whose position on public questions is unknown, and the course of the Democratic party should be the same to matter which element controls the Republican nomination. The Democratic party may make its fight for what it believes. While it may take advantage of Republican mistakes, it must depend upon its merits for success and not upon the errors of its opponents. If the Republicans nominate a standpatter the Democrats can take advantage of the educational work that has been done by Republican reformers: if the Republicans nominate a candidate who is believed to be favorable to reform, such a nomination will strengthen Democratic doctrine, because Republican reformers advocate the reforms that the Democrats have advocated before and the Democrats cannot afford to surrender their position because the Republicans give a partial endorsement to a few Democratic doctrines. If the Republicans nominate one who straddles the issues and attempts to take both sides it is none the less necessary for the Democrats to make an aggressive fight. The action of the Republican convention may have its influence in the determining of the relative availability of Democratic candidates, but it ought not to have any influence in determining the question whether the one chosen by the Democrats should accept the nomination. If the rank and file of the Democratic party desire Mr. Bryan to make the fight, he will make it, no matter who may be the Republican nominee. It has also been charged that Mr. Bryan was waiting to ascertain the chances of a bright or to refuse to run if the chances seemed unfavorable. This charge, like the other, is without foundation. No one can minimize the chances of the party in the next campaign with sufficient accuracy to make his candidacy dependent upon the outlook. While Democrats have reason to be encouraged by the fact that Democratic principles have grown in popularity and that Democratic policies are now praised by many who denounced them a year ago, and while further encouragement is to be derived from the fact that the Democratic party is more united than it has been for many years and the Republican party more divided, still the action of the Democratic party cannot be made dependent upon the prospect of success. The prospects now seem excellent, but a Democratic national convention will be held in a platform adopted and candidates nominated whether the prospects are bright or gloomy, and the party must make the best fight it can whether it enters the campaign with fear or with confidence. Democrats believe that the Democratic party can sound and that Democratic policies are necessary; they should, therefore, endorse those principles and present those policies and then select as their candidates those who in their judgment will give the party the greatest assurance of success in the campaign and the country the greatest assurance of benefit in case of victory.

No man can ask for a nomination as a compliment if his nomination will not benefit the party, and no Democrat would be justified in refusing a nomination if his party demanded his services, and if the members of the party believe that Mr. Bryan's nomination will help the party, its principles and its policies he will accept the nomination whether the indications point to defeat or victory. A defeat can bring no disgrace where the cause is a just one, but cowardice would be disgraceful, especially in one who is deeply indebted to his party as Mr. Bryan is.

Just a word more. The next campaign will be an appeal to the public conscience. The investigations have shown not only the corrupt use of large campaign funds but the only source from which they can be drawn, namely, the corporations that seek to convert the Government into a business asset. The Democratic party stands for the doctrine of equal rights to all and special privileges to none and therefore cannot promise favors to favor seeking corporations. If it made such promises to the corporations it would be guilty of duplicity, for it would have to betray the voters as the Republican party has done in order to reward these corporations as the Republican party has rewarded them. The Democratic campaign must be carried on by volunteers who will work because they desire the triumph of democratic ideas. We cannot hope to appeal to the sordid or to buy the purchasable, even if such a course would contribute toward Democratic success. No one should favor Mr. Bryan's nomination unless the party is willing to open its books and show where its contributions come from and for what the money is expended. The Republican party ought to be challenged to conduct its campaign in this open and honest way, and if the Republican leaders refuse to accept the challenge the Democrats can well afford to leave the issue with the public. An appeal to conscience is politically expedient as well as morally right, for the conscience is the most potent force with which man deals. The national conscience has already been aroused and a large majority of the voters have been educated to the necessity for real reform—a reform that will make this Government again a government of the people, by the people and for the people. It only remains for the Democratic party to convince the voters that it can be entrusted with the government, and nothing will do more to convince the public than a refusal to negotiate with predatory wealth and an honest appeal by honest means to the honest sentiment of the country.

Tried to Sell Navy Secrets.

French Officer Confesses That He Intended to Become a Traitor.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN.

PARIS, Nov. 14.—Charles Ulmo, the young naval officer who was lately arrested at Toulon on the charge of selling official documents for the purpose of selling them to a foreign Power, confessed to-day that he had been in correspondence with a German agent with the view of selling him naval secrets, for which he (Ulmo) demanded \$100,000. The agent declared that this price was excessive and consequently no documents were delivered to him.

Later Ulmo, acting anonymously, offered to return the stolen documents to the French Government for \$50,000, and it was while he was attempting to negotiate to this end that he was arrested.

An act of carelessness gave the police a clue to Ulmo's dealings with the foreign agent. They searched some 80,000 despatches at Toulon, and finally found one in which Ulmo had telegraphed to Brussels saying he would arrive there to meet the agent in the morning.

Ulmo had obliterated the words "in the morning" and the telegraph clerk, noticing this, asked him, as it is customary in France, to write "Words obliterated, nothing," on the bottom of the telegraph form.

Ulmo wrote the words mechanically and added his signature, which placed the authorities on his track.

Mr. Bryan will not ask for or seek a nomination, and he will not, under any circumstances, question his availability. He has been so amply recompensed by his party for what he has done and for what he has endeavored to do that he cannot claim a nomination as a reward, neither should his nomination be considered, for he has had honors enough from his party to satisfy any reasonable ambition.

The only question that ought to weigh with the party is whether the party can be strengthened and aided more by his nomination than by the nomination of some one else. If he can serve the party by being its candidate, he will accept the nomination and make the best fight he can.

If, however, he is not elected, he will not be disappointed or disgruntled. His availability is a question to be decided not by him, but by a few leaders, not even by the leading newspapers that call themselves Democratic, but by the voters of the party, and to them he trusts the decision of the question.

They are the supreme court in all matters concerning candidates, as they are in all matters concerning the platform.

He assumes that they will not select him unless they desire to make an aggressive fight for the application of Democratic principles to present conditions, and he also takes it for granted that the organization of the party will be in harmony with the platform and will be composed of men whose political records will invite confidence and give assurance to the voters, if won, will not be a barren victory.

It has been said that Mr. Bryan was writing to see who the Republican nominee would be. This is untrue. He has never felt that his position should be dependent upon the action taken by the Republican party.

The Republicans have no platform, and a reformer, a standpatter or one whose position on public questions is unknown, and the course of the Democratic party should be the same to matter which element controls the Republican nomination.

The Democratic party may make its fight for what it believes. While it may take advantage of Republican mistakes, it must depend upon its merits for success and not upon the errors of its opponents.

If the Republicans nominate a standpatter the Democrats can take advantage of the educational work that has been done by Republican reformers: if the Republicans nominate a candidate who is believed to be favorable to reform, such a nomination will strengthen Democratic doctrine, because Republican reformers advocate the reforms that the Democrats have advocated before and the Democrats cannot afford to surrender their position because the Republicans give a partial endorsement to a few Democratic doctrines.

If the Republicans nominate one who straddles the issues and attempts to take both sides it is none the less necessary for the Democrats to make an aggressive fight. The action of the Republican convention may have its influence in the determining of the relative availability of Democratic candidates, but it ought not to have any influence in determining the question whether the one chosen by the Democrats should accept the nomination.

If the rank and file of the Democratic party desire Mr. Bryan to make the fight, he will make it, no matter who may be the Republican nominee. It has also been charged that Mr. Bryan was waiting to ascertain the chances of a bright or to refuse to run if the chances seemed unfavorable. This charge, like the other, is without foundation. No one can minimize the chances of the party in the next campaign with sufficient accuracy to make his candidacy dependent upon the outlook.

While Democrats have reason to be encouraged by the fact that Democratic principles have grown in popularity and that Democratic policies are now praised by many who denounced them a year ago, and while further encouragement is to be derived from the fact that the Democratic party is more united than it has been for many years and the Republican party more divided, still the action of the Democratic party cannot be made dependent upon the prospect of success.

The prospects now seem excellent, but a Democratic national convention will be held in a platform adopted and candidates nominated whether the prospects are bright or gloomy, and the party must make the best fight it can whether it enters the campaign with fear or with confidence.

Democrats believe that the Democratic party can sound and that Democratic policies are necessary; they should, therefore, endorse those principles and present those policies and then select as their candidates those who in their judgment will give the party the greatest assurance of success in the campaign and the country the greatest assurance of benefit in case of victory.

No man can ask for a nomination as a compliment if his nomination will not benefit the party, and no Democrat would be justified in refusing a nomination if his party demanded his services, and if the members of the party believe that Mr. Bryan's nomination will help the party, its principles and its policies he will accept the nomination whether the indications point to defeat or victory.

Just a word more. The next campaign will be an appeal to the public conscience. The investigations have shown not only the corrupt use of large campaign funds but the only source from which they can be drawn, namely, the corporations that seek to convert the Government into a business asset.

The Democratic party stands for the doctrine of equal rights to all and special privileges to none and therefore cannot promise favors to favor seeking corporations. If it made such promises to the corporations it would be guilty of duplicity, for it would have to betray the voters as the Republican party has done in order to reward these corporations as the Republican party has rewarded them.

The Democratic campaign must be carried on by volunteers who will work because they desire the triumph of democratic ideas. We cannot hope to appeal to the sordid or to buy the purchasable, even if such a course would contribute toward Democratic success.

No one should favor Mr. Bryan's nomination unless the party is willing to open its books and show where its contributions come from and for what the money is expended.

The Republican party ought to be challenged to conduct its campaign in this open and honest way, and if the Republican leaders refuse to accept the challenge the Democrats can well afford to leave the issue with the public.

An appeal to conscience is politically expedient as well as morally right, for the conscience is the most potent force with which man deals.

The national conscience has already been aroused and a large majority of the voters have been educated to the necessity for real reform—a reform that will make this Government again a government of the people, by the people and for the people.

It only remains for the Democratic party to convince the voters that it can be entrusted with the government, and nothing will do more to convince the public than a refusal to negotiate with predatory wealth and an honest appeal by honest means to the honest sentiment of the country.

Mr. Bryan will not ask for or seek a nomination, and he will not, under any circumstances, question his availability. He has been so amply recompensed by his party for what he has done and for what he has endeavored to do that he cannot claim a nomination as a reward, neither should his nomination be considered, for he has had honors enough from his party to satisfy any reasonable ambition.

The only question that ought to weigh with the party is whether the party can be strengthened and aided more by his nomination than by the nomination of some one else. If he can serve the party by being its candidate, he will accept the nomination and make the best fight he can.

If, however, he is not elected, he will not be disappointed or disgruntled. His availability is a question to be decided not by him, but by a few leaders, not even by the leading newspapers that call themselves Democratic, but by the voters of the party, and to them he trusts the decision of the question.

They are the supreme court in all matters concerning candidates, as they are in all matters concerning the platform.

He assumes that they will not select him unless they desire to make an aggressive fight for the application of Democratic principles to present conditions, and he also takes it for granted that the organization of the party will be in harmony with the platform and will be composed of men whose political records will invite confidence and give assurance to the voters, if won, will not be a barren victory.

It has been said that Mr. Bryan was writing to see who the Republican nominee would be. This is untrue. He has never felt that his position should be dependent upon the action taken by the Republican party.

The Republicans have no platform, and a reformer, a standpatter or one whose position on public questions is unknown, and the course of the Democratic party should be the same to matter which element controls the Republican nomination.

The Democratic party may make its fight for what it believes. While it may take advantage of Republican mistakes, it must depend upon its merits for success and not upon the errors of its opponents.

If the Republicans nominate a standpatter the Democrats can take advantage of the educational work that has been done by Republican reformers: if the Republicans nominate a candidate who is believed to be favorable to reform, such a nomination will strengthen Democratic doctrine, because Republican reformers advocate the reforms that the Democrats have advocated before and the Democrats cannot afford to surrender their position because the Republicans give a partial endorsement to a few Democratic doctrines.

If the Republicans nominate one who straddles the issues and attempts to take both sides it is none the less necessary for the Democrats to make an aggressive fight. The action of the Republican convention may have its influence in the determining of the relative availability of Democratic candidates, but it ought not to have any influence in determining the question whether the one chosen by the Democrats should accept the nomination.

If the rank and file of the Democratic party desire Mr. Bryan to make the fight, he will make it, no matter who may be the Republican nominee. It has also been charged that Mr. Bryan was waiting to ascertain the chances of a bright or to refuse to run if the chances seemed unfavorable. This charge, like the other, is without foundation. No one can minimize the chances of the party in the next campaign with sufficient accuracy to make his candidacy dependent upon the outlook.

While Democrats have reason to be encouraged by the fact that Democratic principles have grown in popularity and that Democratic policies are now praised by many who denounced them a year ago, and while further encouragement is to be derived from the fact that the Democratic party is more united than it has been for many years and the Republican party more divided, still the action of the Democratic party cannot be made dependent upon the prospect of success.

The prospects now seem excellent, but a Democratic national convention will be held in a platform adopted and candidates nominated whether the prospects are bright or gloomy, and the party must make the best fight it can whether it enters the campaign with fear or with confidence.

Democrats believe that the Democratic party can sound and that Democratic policies are necessary; they should, therefore, endorse those principles and present those policies and then select as their candidates those who in their judgment will give the party the greatest assurance of success in the campaign and the country the greatest assurance of benefit in case of victory.

No man can ask for a nomination as a compliment if his nomination will not benefit the party, and no Democrat would be justified in refusing a nomination if his party demanded his services, and if the members of the party believe that Mr. Bryan's nomination will help the party, its principles and its policies he will accept the nomination whether the indications point to defeat or victory.

Just a word more. The next campaign will be an appeal to the public conscience. The investigations have shown not only the corrupt use of large campaign funds but the only source from which they can be drawn, namely, the corporations that seek to convert the Government into a business asset.

The Democratic party stands for the doctrine of equal rights to all and special privileges to none and therefore cannot promise favors to favor seeking corporations. If it made such promises to the corporations it would be guilty of duplicity, for it would have to betray the voters as the Republican party has done in order to reward these corporations as the Republican party has rewarded them.

The Democratic campaign must be carried on by volunteers who will work because they desire the triumph of democratic ideas. We cannot hope to appeal to the sordid or to buy the purchasable, even if such a course would contribute toward Democratic success.

No one should favor Mr. Bryan's nomination unless the party is willing to open its books and show where its contributions come from and for what the money is expended.

The Republican party ought to be challenged to conduct its campaign in this open and honest way, and if the Republican leaders refuse to accept the challenge the Democrats can well afford to leave the issue with the public.

An appeal to conscience is politically expedient as well as morally right, for the conscience is the most potent force with which man deals.

The national conscience has already been aroused and a large majority of the voters have been educated to the necessity for real reform—a reform that will make this Government again a government of the people, by the people and for the people.

It only remains for the Democratic party to convince the voters that it can be entrusted with the government, and nothing will do more to convince the public than a refusal to negotiate with predatory wealth and an honest appeal by honest means to the honest sentiment of the country.

Mr. Bryan will not ask for or seek a nomination, and he will not, under any circumstances, question his availability. He has been so amply recompensed by his party for what he has done and for what he has endeavored to do that he cannot claim a nomination as a reward, neither should his nomination be considered, for he has had honors enough from his party to satisfy any reasonable ambition.

The only question that ought to weigh with the party is whether the party can be strengthened and aided more by his nomination than by the nomination of some one else. If he can serve the party by being its candidate, he will accept the nomination and make the best fight he can.

If, however, he is not elected, he will not be disappointed or disgruntled. His availability is a question to be decided not by him, but by a few leaders, not even by the leading newspapers that call themselves Democratic, but by the voters of the party, and to them he trusts the decision of the question.

They are the supreme court in all matters concerning candidates, as they are in all matters concerning the platform.

He assumes that they will not select him unless they desire to make an aggressive fight for the application of Democratic principles to present conditions, and he also takes it for granted that the organization of the party will be in harmony with the platform and will be composed of men whose political records will invite confidence and give assurance to the voters, if won, will not be a barren victory.

It has been said that Mr. Bryan was writing to see who the Republican nominee would be. This is untrue. He has never felt that his position should be dependent upon the action taken by the Republican party.

The Republicans have no platform, and a reformer, a standpatter or one whose position on public questions is unknown, and the course of the Democratic party should be the same to matter which element controls the Republican nomination.

The Democratic party may make its fight for what it believes. While it may take advantage of Republican mistakes, it must depend upon its merits for success and not upon the errors of its opponents.

If the Republicans nominate a standpatter the Democrats can take advantage of the educational work that has been done by Republican reformers: if the Republicans nominate a candidate who is believed to be favorable to reform, such a nomination will strengthen Democratic doctrine, because Republican reformers advocate the reforms that the Democrats have advocated before and the Democrats cannot afford to surrender their position because the Republicans give a partial endorsement to a few Democratic doctrines.

If the Republicans nominate one who straddles the issues and attempts to take both sides it is none the less necessary for the Democrats to make an aggressive fight. The action of the Republican convention may have its influence in the determining of the relative availability of Democratic candidates, but it ought not to have any influence in determining the question whether the one chosen by the Democrats should accept the nomination.

If the rank and file of the Democratic party desire Mr. Bryan to make the fight, he will make it, no matter who may be the Republican nominee. It has also been charged that Mr. Bryan was waiting to ascertain the chances of a bright or to refuse to run if the chances seemed unfavorable. This charge, like the other, is without foundation. No one can minimize the chances of the party in the next campaign with sufficient accuracy to make his candidacy dependent upon the outlook.

While Democrats have reason to be encouraged by the fact that Democratic principles have grown in popularity and that Democratic policies are now praised by many who denounced them a year ago, and while further encouragement is to be derived from the fact that the Democratic party is more united than it has been for many years and the Republican party more divided, still the action of the Democratic party cannot be made dependent upon the prospect of success.

The prospects now seem excellent, but a Democratic national convention will be held in a platform adopted and candidates nominated whether the prospects are bright or gloomy, and the party must make the best fight it can whether it enters the campaign with fear or with confidence.

Democrats believe that the Democratic party can sound and that Democratic policies are necessary; they should, therefore, endorse those principles and present those policies and then select as their candidates those who in their judgment will give the party the greatest assurance of success in the campaign and the country the greatest assurance of benefit in case of victory.

No man can ask for a nomination as a compliment if his nomination will not benefit the party, and no Democrat would be justified in refusing a nomination if his party demanded his services, and if the members of the party believe that Mr. Bryan's nomination will help the party, its principles and its policies he will accept the nomination whether the indications point to defeat or victory.

Just a word more. The next campaign will be an appeal to the public conscience. The investigations have shown not only the corrupt use of large campaign funds but the only source from which they can be drawn, namely, the corporations that seek to convert the Government into a business asset.

The Democratic party stands for the doctrine of equal rights to all and special privileges to none and therefore cannot promise favors to favor seeking corporations. If it made such promises to the corporations it would be guilty of duplicity, for it would have to betray the voters as the Republican party has done in order to reward these corporations as the Republican party has rewarded them.

The Democratic campaign must be carried on by volunteers who will work because they desire the triumph of democratic ideas. We cannot hope to appeal to the sordid or to buy the purchasable, even if such a course would contribute toward Democratic success.

No one should favor Mr. Bryan's nomination unless the party is willing to open its books and show where its contributions come from and for what the money is expended.

The Republican party ought to be challenged to conduct its campaign in this open and honest way, and if the Republican leaders refuse to accept the challenge the Democrats can well afford to leave the issue with the public.

An appeal to conscience is politically expedient as well as morally right, for the conscience is the most potent force with which man deals.

The national conscience has already been aroused and a large majority of the voters have been educated to the necessity for real reform—a reform that will make this Government again a government of the people, by the people and for the people.

It only remains for the Democratic party to convince the voters that it can be entrusted with the government, and nothing will do more to convince the public than a refusal to negotiate with predatory wealth and an honest appeal by honest means to the honest sentiment of the country.

Mr. Bryan will not ask for or seek a nomination, and he will not, under any circumstances, question his availability. He has been so amply recompensed by his party for what he has done and for what he has endeavored to do that he cannot claim a nomination as a reward, neither should his nomination be considered, for he has had honors enough from his party to satisfy any reasonable ambition.

The only question that ought to weigh with the party is whether the party can be strengthened and aided more by his nomination than by the nomination of some one else. If he can serve the party by being its candidate, he will accept the nomination and make the best fight he can.

If, however, he is not elected, he will not be disappointed or disgruntled. His availability is a question to be decided not by him, but by a few leaders, not even by the leading newspapers that call themselves Democratic, but by the voters of the party, and to them he trusts the decision of the question.

They are the supreme court in all matters concerning candidates, as they are in all matters concerning the platform.

He assumes that they will not select him unless they desire to make an aggressive fight for the application of Democratic principles to present conditions, and he also takes it for granted that the organization of the party will be in harmony with the platform and will be composed of men whose political records will invite confidence and give assurance to the voters, if won, will not be a barren victory.

It has been said that Mr. Bryan was writing to see who the Republican nominee would be. This is untrue. He has never felt that his position should be dependent upon the action taken by the Republican party.

The Republicans have no platform, and a reformer, a standpatter or one whose position on public questions is unknown, and the course of the Democratic party should be the same to matter which element controls the Republican nomination.

The Democratic party may make its fight for what it believes. While it may take advantage of Republican mistakes, it must depend upon its merits for success and not upon the errors of its opponents.

If the Republicans nominate a standpatter the Democrats can take advantage of the educational work that has been done by Republican reformers: if the Republicans nominate a candidate who is believed to be favorable to reform, such a nomination will strengthen Democratic doctrine, because Republican reformers advocate the reforms that the Democrats have advocated before and the Democrats cannot afford to surrender their position because the Republicans give a partial endorsement to a few Democratic doctrines.

If the Republicans nominate one who straddles the issues and attempts to take both sides it is none the less necessary for the Democrats to make an aggressive fight. The action of the Republican convention may have its influence in the determining of the relative availability of Democratic candidates, but it ought not to have any influence in determining the question whether the one chosen by the Democrats should accept the nomination.

If the rank and file of the Democratic party desire Mr. Bryan to make the fight, he will make it, no matter who may be the Republican nominee. It has also been charged that Mr. Bryan was waiting to ascertain the chances of a bright or to refuse to run if the chances seemed unfavorable. This charge, like the other, is without foundation. No one can minimize the chances of the party in the next campaign with sufficient accuracy to make his candidacy dependent upon the outlook.

While Democrats have reason to be encouraged by the fact that Democratic principles have grown in popularity and that Democratic policies are now praised by many who denounced them a year ago, and while further encouragement is to be derived from the fact that the Democratic party is more united than it has been for many years and the Republican party more divided, still the action of the Democratic party cannot be made dependent upon the prospect of success.

The prospects now seem excellent, but a Democratic national convention will be held in a platform adopted and candidates nominated whether the prospects are bright or gloomy, and the party must make the best fight it can whether it enters the campaign with fear or with confidence.

Democrats believe that the Democratic party can sound and that Democratic policies are necessary; they should, therefore, endorse those principles and present those policies and then select as their candidates those who in their judgment will give the party the greatest assurance of success in the campaign and the country the greatest assurance of benefit in case of victory.

No man can ask for a nomination as a compliment if his nomination will not benefit the party, and no Democrat would be justified in refusing a nomination if his party demanded his services, and if the members of the party believe that Mr. Bryan's nomination will help the party, its principles and its policies he will accept the nomination whether the indications point to defeat or victory.

Just a word more. The next campaign will be an appeal to the public conscience. The investigations have shown not only the corrupt use of large campaign funds but the only source from which they can be drawn, namely, the corporations that seek to convert the Government into a business asset.

The Democratic party stands for the doctrine of equal rights to all and special privileges to none and therefore cannot promise favors to favor seeking corporations. If it made such promises to the corporations it would be guilty of duplicity, for it would have to betray the voters as the Republican party has done in order to reward these corporations as the Republican party has rewarded them.

The Democratic campaign must be carried on by volunteers who will work because they desire the triumph of democratic ideas. We cannot hope to appeal to the sordid or to buy the purchasable, even if such a course would contribute toward Democratic success.

No one should favor Mr. Bryan's nomination unless the party is willing to open its books and show where its contributions come from and for what the money is expended.

The Republican party ought to be challenged to conduct its campaign in this open and honest way, and if the Republican leaders refuse to accept the challenge the Democrats can well afford to leave the issue with the public.

An appeal to conscience is politically expedient as well as morally right, for the conscience is the most potent force with which man deals.

The national conscience has already been aroused and a large majority of the voters have been educated to the necessity for real reform—a reform that will make this Government again a government of the people, by the people and for the people.

It only remains for the Democratic party to convince the voters that it can be entrusted with the government, and nothing will do more to convince the public than a refusal to negotiate with predatory wealth and an honest appeal by honest means to the honest sentiment of the country.

Mr. Bryan will not ask for or seek a nomination, and he will not, under any circumstances, question his availability. He has been so amply recompensed by his party for what he has done and for what he has endeavored to do that he cannot claim a nomination as a reward, neither should his nomination be considered, for he has had honors enough from his party to satisfy any reasonable ambition.

The only question that ought to weigh with the party is whether the party can be strengthened and aided more by his nomination than by the nomination of some one else. If he can serve the party by being its candidate, he will accept the nomination and make the best fight he can.

If, however, he is not elected, he will not be disappointed or disgruntled. His availability is a question to be decided not by him, but by a few leaders, not even by the leading newspapers that call themselves Democratic, but by the voters of the party, and to them he trusts the decision of the question.

They are the supreme court in all matters concerning candidates, as they are in all matters concerning the platform.

He assumes that they will not select him unless they desire to make an aggressive fight for the application of Democratic principles to present conditions, and he also takes it for granted that the organization of the party will be in harmony with the platform and will be composed of men whose political records will invite confidence and give assurance to the voters, if won, will not be a barren victory.

It has been said that Mr. Bryan was writing to see who the Republican nominee would be. This is untrue. He has never felt that his position should be dependent upon the action taken by the Republican party.

The Republicans have no platform, and a reformer, a standpatter or one whose position on public questions is unknown, and the course of the Democratic party should be the same to matter which element controls the Republican nomination.

The Democratic party may make its fight for what it believes. While it may take advantage of Republican mistakes, it must depend upon its merits for success and not upon the errors of its opponents.

If the Republicans nominate a standpatter the Democrats can take advantage of the educational work that has been done by Republican reformers: if the Republicans nominate a candidate who is believed to be favorable to reform, such a nomination will strengthen Democratic doctrine, because Republican reformers advocate the reforms that the Democrats have advocated before and the Democrats cannot afford to surrender their position because the Republicans give a partial endorsement to a few Democratic doctrines.

If the Republicans nominate one who straddles the issues and attempts to take both sides it is none the less necessary for the Democrats to make an aggressive fight. The action of the Republican convention may have its influence in the determining of the relative availability of Democratic candidates, but it ought not to have any influence in determining the question whether the one chosen by the Democrats should accept the nomination.

If the rank and file of the Democratic party desire Mr. Bryan to make the fight, he will make it, no matter who may be the Republican nominee. It has also been charged that Mr. Bryan was waiting to ascertain the chances of a bright or to refuse to run if the chances seemed unfavorable. This charge, like the other, is without foundation. No one can minimize the chances of the party in the next campaign with sufficient accuracy to make his candidacy dependent upon the outlook.

While Democrats have reason to be encouraged by the fact that Democratic principles have